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My Dear Mrs Chapman If you only knew how much pleasure your kind letter gave me, I am sure you would be glad of having written it. It came at a particularly gloomy moment and acted upon me like a charm. I always feel stronger and better for a word from you — Will you not let me come to you for advice when I need it. ?

The only reason why I have not written you before, was that I knew how many letters, Mss, papers &c are sent to you and I thought the best testimony of my love & respect was silence

MS.A.4.2.30.19

19

How happy it makes me to know that you sometimes think of me - That I should think and speak of you daily, is but natural - You are always constantly - either directly or indirectly - in my thoughts and your name flies on my lips. I own all pictures of you (cut from the gallery of distinguished women) hangs upon my wall - sometimes I wish it would speak to me -

I've not been very well - for the last two or three weeks. Ive remained rather late in the country, and I took a severe cold which I can't get clear of

still I am in far better
general health than when
in N. England. This climate
seems to have given more
tone & character to my system.
& I am getting less nervous and
more muscular —

Poor John Brown!
the thought of him never leaves
me — For the first week after
his capture I did not close
my eyes. And though the weather
was quite cool I had to put
out my fire and keep my
window open; felt as if I
should stifle with the great
effort to keep quiet — I can't
think they will dare to hang
him — But what an argument
he furnishes the Anti Slavery —

cause — and his death (if indeed it must come) will surely advance the Movement half a century — Capt. Brown fills me with admiration & wonder — but those poor, weak negroes have all my pity. They could not help being timid and faint — Great souls are rare — They (the negroes) did their best when their blood was up. Now when imprisonment, fright, and the prospect of an ignominious death act upon their weak intellectual organizations how can we expect them to be calm & resolute? — There is not enough of iron made for them — Oh how I wish

I wish to God I could be with those poor creatures! Did you see, dear Mrs Chapman, that they (the two negroes) were handcuffed together in their cell, having each only one hand free? What a terrible barbarity! All the vile newspaper shot is aimed at them; their conviction has been omitted above & they are used like dogs. If these wretched Slave holders & propagandists could see themselves in a true light, I am sure they would die of self-loathing. The path of duty to others is much more plain than much duty to one's self. That I am surprised at any step any man would choose can ever be taken.

I thank you so much for what you said in your last letter, it was moral ailment as well as encouragement to me - for in looking at the face of Society, - in thinking over all the meanness, littleness & brutal outrage of the Slave Power, I grow so deadly sick that I think I can't care to live.

A lady friend - from Miss is has just come in possession of forty negroes - (She has plenty other means) I have talked with her for hours but can make no possible impression. She loves me dearly - and I can't prove the lie - She says - "that it

would be a sin (!!) to set them free!" I can't stand an Idea up before her - and as for Sympathy she thinks it misplaced when given to Negroes. I told her that I almost wished she didn't love me. She will leave here on Sept Monday for "the old plantation" - her father died last Spring - and she proposes to sell her Negroes -

When I looked at her, a Slight - fair - haired woman of 22 and remembered that forty human beings were subject - to her control, claimed owned body and soul by her - & that Civilized law recognized such a thing. I really

hated my country - There
is one phrase that has
become odious to me —
viz "United States Law".
Dear Friend, I fear I have
wearied you - And long as my
letter is - I have not yet
said what I fain would intend
- Excuse me -
Please remember me most
affectionately to your Mother
also Dr & Miss Preston;
And believe me, dear Mrs
Chapman,
Your truly attached
Martha Griffith

15 Carroll Place
Bleecker Street
New York
Nov 14th

Martha Griffith
Nov 14th date

MWA 4.2.30.19